**UNIT OVERVIEW:** Prime Minister and the Executive

**ENQUIRY:** How powerful is the Prime Minister?

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| **Unit intention:** To explore the structure and workings of government, including the roles and powers of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. It will assess and evaluate who has more power the PM or the Cabinet. It will also explore the constraints that every Prime Minister face. | | | |
| **Success criteria** | | 🗸 | X |
| 1. I can explain the structure and roles of the executive, including the different parts that make up the executive. 2. I can **identify, assess** and **evaluate** the roles and powers of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet and determine and substantiate who is more powerful. 3. I can **distinguish** between Collective and Individual Ministerial Responsibility and **assess** and **evaluate** whether the conventions are still applicable or eroded. 4. I can **identify** and **explain** the factors that the Prime Minister considers when selecting his ministers and the impact it can have within the government, parliamentary party and in the eyes of the electorate. 5. I can **explain** and **compare** the powers between the cabinet and the Prime Minister and **assess** and **evaluate** who is more powerful. 6. I can **research** and **produce** at least two detailed case studies on one pre-1997 and one post 1997 Prime Ministers. 7. I can **assess** and **evaluate** whether the PM is able to control and dictate events and policy. | |  |  |
| **Topic Sequence**   1. Structure, role and powers of the Executive 2. Roles and powers of the Prime Minister Roles and powers of the Cabinet 3. Collective and Individual Ministerial Responsibility 4. The selection of ministers 5. The relationship between the PM and cabinet – is the cabinet submissive to the PM? 6. Prime ministerial case studies – Thatcher, Blair, May and Johnson 7. PM is able to control and dictate events and policy | **Useful Links/Resources:**  **BBC News** [www.bbc.com/politics](http://www.bbc.com/politics)  **Channel Four News (Politics)** – in depth video analysis of political stories. <https://www.channel4.com/news/>  The **Economist** has analysis and opinions of the latest political stories. <https://www.economist.com/>  **The Telegraph** – Current political news, more from a Conservative perspective.  <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/>  The **Guardian** – Current political news, more from a liberal perspective.  <https://www.theguardian.com/politics>  **Blogs**  **UCL Constitution Unit** – Research based blog dealing with analysis of current political problems  <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/>  **Politics blog**  <http://alevelpolitics.com/>  **Useful resources**  **Tutor2u – resources for A-Level Politics**  <https://www.tutor2u.net/politics>  **Politics Review Magazines – Extra Resources**  <https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/magazines/magazines-extras/politics-review-extras> | | |

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| **Wider Reading** | 🗸 |
| 1. What determines the Prime Minister’s power? (Politics Review, 2019) 2. Ministerial Resignations (Politics Review, 2022) 3. Forty years of prime ministerial power: 1979-2019 4. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet: theories and myths of executive power. (Politics Review, 2021) 5. British Prime Ministers: power and success (Politics Review, 2020) 6. Prime Minister and the Cabinet relations in 2019: from disunity to diversity? (Politics Annual Update, 2020) |  |
| **Exam Question** | |
| **Evaluate the view that the Cabinet is submissive to the Prime Minister. (30 marks)** | |
| **Teacher Question Time**  Write questions below you would like the teacher to clarify your understanding on | |
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